Agni Missile Programme

816. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for abandoning the Agni Missile programme;

(b) whether Government are thinking of giving fresh lease of life to the Agni Missile Programme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d) With the three flight tests, the re-entry technology demonstration under the project 'Agni' has been successfully completed. It has been decided to accord high priority to next phase of 'Agni' programme.

Development of Agni Missiles

817. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are reconsidering changes in our policy for development of nuclear technology for defence proposes and showed down "Agni" project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether international pressure is mounting for goslow/discarding the projects; and

(d) what is the present status of the project and future plans for execution of the project and technologies for defence purposes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government are aware of international efforts to tighten adhoc export control regimes for curbing export of missile related technologies.

(d) With three flight tests, the re-entry technology demonstration under the project 'Agni' has been successfully completed. It has been decided to accord high priority to next phase of 'Agni' programme.

Development of anti-submarine torpedo

818. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has developed an indigenous anti-submarine torpedo; and

(b) by when it is expected to be inducted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) The indigenous antisubmarine torpedo namely Advanced Experimental Torpedo (AET) is in the final stage of development. Its technical trials have been successfully completed and its user trials are planned in October 1997.

(b) The AET is expected to be inducted into the Navy by 1999.

Integrated anti-missile defence Programme

819. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for an Integrated anti-missile defence programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons that such programme was not planned earlier keeping in view the recent development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (c) Government have received a proposal for development of this system. It is not in national security interest to give further details at this juncture.